

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, August 9, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: Acting President Wasko called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Present were Acting President Wasko, Members Chen, Nielsen, Franz, Villareal, and Soglin along with staff members Wright and Brown.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES : Acting President Wasko thanked everyone for their presence at this meeting and noted the partial minutes of the July 26, 2007, meeting are attached for reference, but will be carried to the next regular meeting for approval.

3-A. CO-SPONSOR FRIENDS OF WUXI, CHINA, FLAG RAISING:

Staff member Wright provided the Board an update. The City Manager's office had been researching protocol for raising another nation's flag and this would entail the City obtaining a second flag pole or two flag poles of equal height. To meet international law, China's flag has to be level with the U.S. flag. There are logistical issues that cannot be overcome for a flag raising this year. The Mayor will send a letter to the East Bay Flag Raising Committee requesting to participate in the City of Oakland's flag raising this year.

Member Chen addressed a couple questions from the Board.

Member Franz – How long is the flag suppose to be flown? It could be a minute to a couple of hours, usually this is dependant on the entertainment at the ceremony.

Member Nielsen – Is the City hoping by this time next year we will have the logistics worked out so we can participate? Staff Wright, yes.

Member Franz – Perhaps this Board can have the logistics and protocol issues worked out by Lunar New Year festival next year, which will allow this Board the outreach at Lunar New Year.

Acting President Wasko – This would be a great opportunity to get the community involved, and agreed with member Nielsen that diversity and learning about others cultures is a positive thing.

Motion for Acting President Wasko to draft a letter to City Council supporting participation in the flag raising ceremony in Oakland for Chinese Independence Day, and supports a Alameda flag raising ceremony next year. M/S Wasko, Chen and unanimous. Member Chen will try to be available for September 18th Council meeting in case there is a Proclamation.

3-B. APPROVAL OF TRIP TO FRIENDSHIP CITY, WUXI, CHINA:

Staff member Wright provided the Board an update. Staff is preparing a Council report for the August 21st agenda. The Board and Sister City Workgroup is asked to help finalize the delegation recommendations, travel plans, visas and any other issues that may arise. Approval of the trip is not necessary since the City has an MOU in place with Wuxi. Delegation recommendations include the Mayor, 2 or 3 Council members, City Manager, a member of the SSHRB, and a member of the Sister City Workgroup, and the Library Director. Seven "city officials" and one guest for each will make up

the formal delegation. Following the August 21st Council meeting the Board and Workgroup will have a list of delegates for further planning.

Member Chen provided information regarding what to expect once the delegation gets to Wuxi. There will be two to three activities for the official delegation (seven) and the remaining guests in the delegation will be entertained. Any extra people who attend the trip will be expected to pay expenses for the Wuxi portion of the trip. A \$1,000 deposit is requested by August 31st for travelers.

Following discussion on the delegation list, the Board concluded that the delegation should include leaders from law enforcement, health care, public utilities, and the environment. Also discussed was the importance of the delegation coming back to the community with information from the trip.

Motion recommending staff draft a letter from the Board to be an attachment to the Council report. The letter should recommend accepting the invitation, suggestions for the delegation make up, and an opportunity for delegates to share their reflections following the trip. Staff reminded the Board the letter is due Monday. M/S Wasko, Franz and unanimous.

3-C. CO-SPONSOR DIVERSITY FORUMS WITH COLLEGE OF ALAMEDA (COA): Member Villareal reported the early August meeting (ATAH and COA) had been canceled, but there is clear partnership has formed. The diversity forums have no set topics and things are moving forward. Forum topics under consideration include religion, historical Alameda (i.e., Chinatown Alameda), race, bias issues, and disability issues. Member Villareal expressed stated there are good expectations and noted the staff at COA are energetic and supportive.

Motion to approve expenditure up to \$200 and to support ATAH as much as possible. M/S Franz, Wasko and unanimous.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Staff member Wright reported Council approved the \$25,000 for the 2-1-1 system for FY2007/08, but they expect milestones to be made before committing to the three years of funding Eden needs to demonstrate they are serving low income families.

Member Franz reported former President Rob Bonta approached him with an invite to sit with the Hospital Community Relations Committee and he has accepted.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Acting President Wasko adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Wright
Acting Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

MJ:sb